

ArtStream!

Coordinated by Nicolette Stearns

Project Goal

To utilize volunteers with disabilities, people whom others may not be thinking of.

Project Components

Using adults with disabilities as volunteers alongside SSL kids at performances for tasks such as passing out programs, being greeters (“welcome to ArtStream”), selling t-shirts or car magnets, and making and selling handmade cards.

Timeline for Planning

They ask for a 6-month ongoing commitment.

How Many Volunteers?

It depends on the project. For a show, about 25, for costumes, makeup, ticket and merchandise sales and other tasks.

Time Commitment

About 3 to 6 hours.

Expenses

None – coordinating these volunteers is part of staff’s jobs.

Publicity

Publicity is done through email and through Constant Contact. Also use phone calls to recruit volunteers.

Challenges

Building awareness that this is an option for adults with disabilities, as they are not always aware.

Results

We become an inclusive organization. We reach out to the special needs community and are a resource for them. We provide a benefit to mainstream teens as much as the participants with disabilities.

Tips/Key Steps:

Be open-minded to the idea of having special needs volunteers. Know that every single person is committed to the organization, so place faith in the volunteers, while recognizing that no single volunteer provides a perfect fit.



Points of Interest

- Look for your volunteers' special talent: in the case of ArtStream, a person who makes cross stitch projects and sells them at events then donates every dime back.

